



The Project

Colombia used to have a single entity for drinking water supply. Early 1990s, as part of the constitutional reform, this entity was dismantled, and all municipalities became responsible for their own drinking water supply. This has led to a highly fragmented sector, in many cases the municipal capability was insufficient for a proper and sustainable provision of drinking water.

Non-revenue water is one of the main issues affecting most, if not all, water service providers in Colombia. The challenges are both technical and commercial. Static (and actual) pressures in water distribution networks can be quite high because of differences in elevation of the supply areas. Physical non-revenue water is more or less linearly related to water pressures. The concept of district metered areas (DMAs) to monitor and control the level of non-revenue water is yet to become commonplace in Colombia. On the commercial side, there are strong laws and rules, but there is insufficient enforcement. Another challenge is that the ownership of the domestic water meters is with the consumer, not with the water utility.

This project aims to develop regional water operators into sustainable utility companies in predominately small population centres and rural zones in Colombia.



About WaterWorX

WaterWorX is a new flagship program that brings together 10 Dutch water utilities and 24 (or more) water operators in developing countries to provide 10 million people with sustainable access to clean drinking water through WOPs. Supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), this programme enables Dutch and local water experts to collaborate in WOP projects, across Asia, Africa and Latin America, over the coming 14 years.

WaterWorX aims to increase sustainable access to drinking water to 10 million people, by:

1. Strengthening the financial, technical and social sustainability of the local partner water companies in order to make sustainable drinking water available to millions of people in developing and transition countries.
2. Strengthening the enabling environment of laws & regulations, financing and policies in which water companies are encouraged to function properly and enhance their performance.
3. Increasing access to water infrastructure investment finance, by developing investment proposals and engaging with domestic and international financing organisations and banks.

WOP PROFILE



The BEWOP Initiative contributes to WaterWorX's visibility

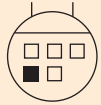
WATER OPERATOR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

Acuavalle, Aguas del Huila, Las Ceibas and Vitens Evides International (VEI)



Budget

€ 2,589,000



Duration

1 June 2018 – 31 December 2021
(intention to collaborate until 2030)



Project Partners

Acuavalle, Aguas del Huila and Las Ceibas

Colombia



Vitens Evides International (VEI)

The Netherlands



Findeter Financial Institution for Development | Interamerica Delopment Bank

Colombia



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands - DGIS | Dutch Embassy (Bogota) | Holland House | Cinara

The Netherlands



Vice Ministry of Water and Basic Sanitation | Commission for the Regulation of Drinking Water and Basic Sanitation | Superintendencia of Public Services | National Planning Department

Colombia



Project Objectives



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water (and sanitation) for the populations within the service areas of Acuavalle, Las Ceibas and Aguas del Huila by 2023.

- The water utilities have incorporated the delivery of transparent, safe, sustainable, equitable and affordable services into their mission and vision statements, as well as into their planning, budgeting and monitoring cycle.

SDG 6



The combined water utilities' client base enjoys sustainable, equitable and affordable access to clean and safe drinking water services by 2021:

- The utilities have increased access to water for 50,000 people by the year 2021 (300,000 by 2025), of which at least 50% are considered belonging to poor and vulnerable population groups;
- The utilities have taken the necessary measures, in the catchment areas of their water sources and at water intakes and treatment plants, to guarantee the production of continuous, clean and safe drinking water all year round in most (>75%) of the systems;
- The utilities have reduced the levels of non-revenue water to reach an average of less than 30% of the quantity of water distributed ;
- The utilities have developed and started the execution of two water supply system energy saving initiatives per utility;
- The water tariff structures of the utilities are progressive in order to provide a "safety net" for poor and vulnerable population groups and guarantee the affordability of the services for all.



The water utilities have achieved maintained or improved their financial sustainability and have formulated (bankable) investment proposals

- The utilities are able to cover their operating expenditures (OPEX) and part of their capital expenditures (CAPEX) from their own income: operating ratio >1.2;
- The utilities have achieved an average collection efficiency of more than 95% of monthly billing on an annual basis by the year 2021.